

38. (Twice Amended) An expression system as claimed in claims 39, 40, or 41, wherein said plant developmental gene sequence is a promoter selected from the group consisting of the gene promoters of malate synthase genes, germin genes, glyoxysomal enzyme genes, aleurone layer genes and carboxypeptidase genes.

39. (Twice Amended) An expression system functional in a plant comprising:

- (a) an inducible promoter sequence responsive to the presence or absence of an exogenous chemical inducer;
- (b) either
  - (i) a gene encoding a repressor protein under control of said inducible promoter; or
  - (ii) a gene encoding an inhibitor of the recombinase disrupter specified at (d) below under control of said inducible promoter;
- (c) a plant developmental gene promoter sequence activated at a predetermined stage of plant development, which, in the case of (b)(i) above, includes an operator sequence recognized by said repressor protein, the presence of which inactivates said plant developmental gene promoter; and
- (d) a gene encoding a recombinase that functions as a disrupter of a plant characteristic produced by an inserted gene, the gene encoding the recombinase being under the control of said plant developmental gene promoter sequence, and the recombinase being adapted to excise a nucleotide sequence flanked by recombinase recognition sequences,

wherein the recombinase gene is the FLP gene of the 2 micron plasmid of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and the recognition sequences are the FRT sequences which flank all or part of the inserted gene or its regulatory elements, wherein the inserted gene is a gene encoding a predetermined characteristic introduced into the plant by a recombinant DNA method, and

wherein the presence or absence of the exogenous chemical inducer controls whether said characteristic is displayed in the plant.

40. (Twice Amended) An expression system functional in a plant comprising:

- (a) an inducible promoter sequence responsive to the presence or absence of an exogenous chemical inducer;

- (b) either
  - (i) a gene encoding a repressor protein under control of said inducible promoter; or
  - (ii) a gene encoding an inhibitor of the recombinase disrupter specified at (d) below under control of said inducible promoter;
- (c) a plant developmental gene promoter sequence activated at a predetermined stage of plant development, which, in the case of (b)(i) above, includes an operator sequence recognized by said repressor protein, the presence of which inactivates said plant developmental gene promoter; and
- (d) a gene encoding a recombinase that functions as a disrupter of a plant characteristic produced by an inserted gene, the gene encoding the recombinase being under the control of said plant developmental gene promoter sequence, and the recombinase being adapted to excise a nucleotide sequence flanked by recombinase recognition sequences,

wherein the recombinase gene is the *Cre* gene of bacteriophage P1 and its recognition sequence or the *lox* sequences which flank all or part of the inserted gene or its regulatory elements, wherein the inserted gene is a gene encoding a predetermined characteristic introduced into the plant by a recombinant DNA method, and

wherein the presence or absence of the exogenous chemical inducer controls whether said characteristic is displayed in the plant.

41. (Twice Amended) An expression system functional in a plant comprising:

- (a) an inducible promoter sequence responsive to the presence or absence of an exogenous chemical inducer;
- (b) either
  - (i) a gene encoding a repressor protein under control of said inducible promoter; or
  - (ii) a gene encoding an inhibitor of the recombinase disrupter specified at (d) below under control of said inducible promoter;
- (c) a plant developmental gene promoter sequence activated at a predetermined stage of plant development, which, in the case of (b)(i) above, includes an operator sequence recognized by said repressor

protein, the presence of which inactivates said plant developmental gene promoter; and

- (d) a gene encoding a recombinase that functions as a disrupter of a plant characteristic produced by an inserted gene, the gene encoding the recombinase being under the control of said plant developmental gene promoter sequence, and the recombinase being adapted to excise a nucleotide sequence flanked by recombinase recognition sequences, wherein the recombinase gene is the Activator transposase of *Zea mays*,

wherein the presence or absence of the exogenous chemical inducer controls whether said characteristic is displayed in the plant.

42. (Amended) An expression system as claimed in claims 39, 40, or 41, wherein the inducible promoter is the promoter of the gene encoding the 27 kDa protein of glutathione-S-transferase II.

43. (Amended) An expression system as claimed in claims 39, 40, or 41, wherein said inducible promoter comprises the promoter of the AlcA gene, the system further comprising a gene capable of expressing the AlcR protein alcA and alcR being obtainable from *Aspergillus*.

44. (Amended) An expression system as claimed in claims 39, 40, or 41, which comprises a repressor protein gene, wherein said repressor protein gene encodes the *lac* repressor or a repressor used by 434, P22 or lambdabacteriophages.

45. (Amended) An expression system as claimed in claims 39, 40, or 41, which comprises a repressor protein gene, wherein the repressor protein encoded by said repressor protein gene is the *tet* repressor.

46. (Twice Amended) An expression system functional in a plant comprising:

- (a) an inducible promoter sequence responsive to the presence or absence of an exogenous chemical inducer;

- (b) a gene encoding a protein inhibitor of barnase and containing the coding region of the barstar gene, under control of the said inducible promoter;
- (c) a plant developmental gene promoter sequence activated at a predetermined stage of plant development;
- (d) a disrupter gene which encodes barnase, under the control of the plant developmental gene promoter sequence;

whereby the presence or absence of the exogenous chemical inducer controls whether the plant produces seed capable of developing into a mature plant.

47. (Twice Amended) An isolated plant genome transformed via an expression system as claimed in claims 39, 40, or 41.

48. (Amended) An isolated plant having transformed genome as claimed in claim 47.

49. (Amended) An isolated plant part having a transformed genome as claimed in claim 47.

50. (Amended) An isolated plant cell having a transformed genome as claimed in claim 47.

52. (Amended) A plant or seed engineered to comprise the expression system of claims 39, 40, or 41.

*Please see the attached Appendix for changes made to the above claims.*